ACTS 25; October 26; Paul Appeals to Caesar

ANALYSIS: 1. When Festus came up to Jerusalem, why did the Jews inform him about Paul?
2. How did Paul respond when Festus was inclined to have him brought to trial in Jerusalem?
3. What were the privileges of a Roman when brought to trial?
4. How did Festus describe the accusations that the Jews were bringing against Paul?
5. Why did Festus want King Agrippa to hear Paul's defense?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

In this chapter, as in several epistles of his, Paul affirms his innocence before all men. Verse 8 reads, "While he answered for himself, 'Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all." Paul was without offense before all men. He had lived his life in honesty and Christian charity before all men. Though men found fault with Paul, it was only because of his devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ. What a testimony he was for the gospel's sake and what an example he is for all of us.

Can we say the same for ourselves as Paul could say for himself when brought to trial? Are we free from offense before all men in things pertaining to this world? Are we living honestly and charitably toward all those around us? May the only accusation that can be brought against us, be the accusation that we are disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

HELP:

- 1. Because the Jews hoped that Festus would have Paul brought up to Jerusalem and then they would kill him on the way (vv 2-3)
- 2. Paul appealed to Caesar since he did not want to stand trial in Jerusalem (vv 9-11).
- 3. A Roman citizen had the right to see his accusers face to face and speak in his own defense (v 16).
- 4 Festus termed them "certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive" (v 19).
- $5\,$ So that Festus, with help from Agrippa, could have something to write to Caesar regarding the crimes Paul was accused of (v 26).